

I did not know that it had spread so far inland. Its presence on the Carpentras Plain is not really surprising if one considers the strong focus on horticulture in this area. Both *Geranium* and *Pelargonium* are cultivated extensively in the region for commercial purposes.

In past years the mayor and town council of Bedoin had refused to sign the necessary documents for Mont Ventoux to become a Regional Natural Park. Of the villages concerned, Bedoin was the only one which had refused to sign, thus preventing any progress of the project. However, a recently elected mayor has eventually "given in" to outside pressures and Fabre's Mountain is soon to become one of a chain of Regional Natural Parks. The current committee of the "Parc Naturel Regional du Ventoux" consists of the mayor of Sault as president, aided by the mayors of Bedoin, Beaumont du Ventoux, Malaucène, and Villes sur Auzon. What effect this will have on the commercial utilisation of the forests and on winter sports is not known. There is quite a lot of opposition to the project from local people, mainly because of the probable entry charges. Already one has to pay to enter the Luberon Natural Park. Hunters of wild boar, deer, hares, rabbits and wild birds, also those who collect wild fungi, are particularly enraged by the decision, but apparently they will be able to continue these activities. It is unlikely that the entomological fauna will be affected by such a change and it may possibly be beneficial in preventing any further development. Only time will tell.— LEONARD MCLEOD, 22 Maris Green, Great Shelford, Cambridge CB2 5EE.

Queen of Spain Fritillary *Issoria lathonia* (L.) (Lep.: Nymphalidae) in Staffordshire

During the afternoon of 30 August 2003 I noticed a butterfly land on the outside of my lounge window, here at my home address, at around 3.30pm. Looking rather more closely I was astonished to observe the distinctive under-wing "mirror" pattern of a Queen of Spain Fritillary butterfly. I immediately went out to the garden and was able to obtain sufficient views to confirm that it was in fact this species. According to David Emley, the Staffordshire Recorder for Butterflies and Moths, there have not, as yet, been any other reports of this species in Staffordshire during the year 2003. Of course, this could be a released or escaped example, since this species is sometimes popular with amateur butterfly breeders. However, the weather during July and August 2003 has been exceptionally fine and hot, and immigrant activity has been high in both months, albeit in the main affecting the southern half of the country. Clearly, this observation is worthy of placing on record and it will be interesting to see if any other sightings are reported.— JAN KORYSZKO, 3 Dudley Place, Meir, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, ST3 7AY.